Remarks/Arguments

The instant application contains claims 1-8 of which claims 1-2 stand allowed. 3-4 and 7 stand objected to, and claims 5-8 stand rejected. Applicants have amended claims 3 and 7 and have also amended the specification to address several informalities noted by the examiner. Ample antecedent basis exists in the specification for the amendments to the specification and the claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 3 and 7 stand objected to because of certain informalities. Applicants have amended claims 3 and 7 as suggested by the examiner to remove the informalities. As amended, claims 3 and 7 fully comply with 35 U.S.C. 112.

35 U.S.C. 112 Rejection of Claims 5-8

Claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the examiner contends that applicants' specification contains no support for the feature of:

> periodically sampling the digital signal n times during every interval t, with n chosen such that $\log_2(n) =< x$ where x is an integer.

At best, the examiner contends that applicants' specification at page 3, lines 25-27, only supports the limitation that

> n could assume larger or smaller values, so long as $\log_2(n+1)$ is an integer x greater than zero.

Applicants maintain that despite the lack of an explicit statement of condition that n is chosen such that $\log_2(n) =< x$ where x is an integer, the specification nevertheless does support this feature recited in claims 5 and 7. As discussed at page 3, lines 18-31, the clock 160 generates n periodic pulses during an interval t. Each pulse causes the receiver 140 to generate an x+1 bit sample. As discussed at page 4, lines 8-17, the last x bits of the x+1 bit sample word represent binary value as large as or larger than n for the purpose of identifying the particular one of the n clock signals. Thus, in the case where n is 15, the last four bits represent a binary value that can identify a given one of the first through fifteenth clock cycles. Alternatively, the last x bits of

x+1 sample could represent a binary value than n. For example, consider the case when n is 14. The receiver 140 could sample with 14 clock periods, using the last four bits of the x+1 sample word to identify a particular one of the clock periods, albeit at a cost of slightly greater jitter. The feature in claims 5 and 8 of "periodically sampling the digital signal n times during every interval t, with n chosen such that $\log_2(n) =< x$ where x is an integer" serves to cover the possibility that the last x bits of the sample word represent a binary value greater than n. Therefore, claims 5 and 8 contain subject matter that is indeed fully described in the specification. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection of claims 5 and 7 and the claims that depend therefrom is requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the accompany remarks, applicants solicit entry of this amendment and allowance of the claims. If, however, the Examiner believes such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6820, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Kindly charge the cost of the additional independent claim, as well as any other fees that may be due, to Deposit Account **07-0832.**

Respectfully submitted,
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